

HONORING EDWARD A. TOKASZ
UPON HIS 70TH ANNIVERSARY
AS A MEMBER OF THE DOYLE
HOSE VOLUNTEER FIRE COM-
PANY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, as you well know, the fire service remains among the most well respected and revered groups of individuals within communities throughout the United States. The volunteer fire service, moreover, represents groups of individuals within particular communities who, of their own volition, choose to protect and serve their home communities, putting their lives on the line toward the betterment and safety of their hometowns.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the personal sacrifice of a member of one of the best known and most respected fire companies in my congressional district—the Doyle Hose Fire Company in the town of Cheektowaga. I rise to honor Edward A. Tokasz, who this year will celebrate his 70th anniversary as an active member of Doyle Hose.

A little less than 2 months past his 18th birthday, Ed joined up with Doyle on February 2, 1938, and from that day forward has honorably and competently served as a dedicated member of the company. Ed served in many positions within Doyle, including assistant chief, president, vice president, and sergeant at arms. In particular, in perhaps his most amazing statistic, Ed served as Treasurer for nearly 60 years.

Ed's service to our community set an example for others to follow. Ed's son, Paul Tokasz, began his career as a schoolteacher, and served in several governmental positions before his election to the New York State Assembly in 1988. Paul would eventually rise to serve as majority leader, and I served with Paul in the legislature for 6 years. Undoubtedly, it was Ed's influence that led Paul and many others into public service.

Madam Speaker, it is not often that a Member of the House has the opportunity to honor someone for 70 years of active service in any vocation, much less a vocation as critical to one's community as the fire service. That is why I am asking that you join with me and with all of our colleagues in congratulating Ed Tokasz for his long service to our community, and I know that you and all of our colleagues join me in wishing Ed and his family nothing but the very best of luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

**HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF KATY DAWSON**

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Katy Dawson for her dedicated service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, DC, office.

Katy joined us in 2005 as a staff assistant and provided a warm welcome to our guests. She grew in that position, moved on to serving as a legislative correspondent and has proven to be quite the workhorse. She has been a diligent worker, and she has provided a tremendous help to me. She views each legislative issue with compassion and always considers what is in the best interest of middle Tennesseans.

My staff and I wish Katy well as she moves on to her next challenge. We hope she finds as much success in her next endeavor as her beloved Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots have found on their fields.

Katy, thanks for your hard work over the past few years. I wish you all the best.

**150TH BIRTHDAY OF HAMILTON
COUNTY, TEXAS**

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a shining county in my district. Hamilton County will be celebrating its 150th birthday on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. Named after James Hamilton, a former Governor of South Carolina who aided the Republic of Texas when we made our break from Mexico, Hamilton County is believed to be the final resting place for "Billy the Kid." Although noted by many as a county rooted deep in Texas history, undeniably the greatest asset of Hamilton County is its people.

Hamilton County people are the type who wave to strangers as they pass them driving down the highway. They are the type of people who get together to discuss politics, last night's football game, and their families over a piece of pie. They share a common sense of community where they look after one another. These people are a shining example of the Texas values that make this area of our State so genuine. I am extremely proud to have represented Hamilton County for 3 of the past 150 years and I wish them continued prosperity for another 150 years and beyond.

**HONORING THE SOLDIERS OF INDI-
ANA'S 76TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
COMBAT TEAM**

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the courageous soldiers of Indiana's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and their families for their unwavering commitment to defending our great Nation. For many of these soldiers it will be their second trip to Iraq and another period of extended time away from their families. I know this must be a difficult time for them, but let me stress again how grateful I am for such noble service.

The deployment of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will be the single largest deployment of Indiana National Guard soldiers since World War II. In sum, approximately 3,400 of our Guardsmen will be serving in Iraq when their unit deploys.

I will certainly be keeping these Hoosier soldiers and their families in my thoughts and prayers. Thanks to our troops for protecting and defending the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. And, thanks to our soldiers for their steadfast service to our country.

**RECOGNIZING THE APPOINTMENT
OF ROBERT HAY AS THE 2008
PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYL-
VANIA ASSOCIATION OF REAL-
TORS®**

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Robert C. Hay, CRB, e-PRO, GRI, of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, for achievements in the real estate industry in Pennsylvania and his appointment as the 85th president of the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors® on January 15, 2008.

Mr. Hay has been active in the real estate industry for more than 28 years. At the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors®, he chaired many committees and task forces including Grievance, Strategic Planning and the Convention Committee. Mr. Hay also served as a Realtors® Political Action Committee trustee for many years, and he is Federal political coordinator.

Mr. Hay served as president of his local association, the Pocono Mountains Association of Realtors®, in 1982, 1983, and 1999. He chaired most committees in the association, and he was named Realtor® of the Year in 1982, and again in 2000. This award is given annually to a local member of the association in honor of his or her distinguished and unselfish service while displaying outstanding leadership, vision, and ability. Mr. Hay promoted the consumers' best interests in the real estate market while strictly following the code of ethics.

About 4 years ago, Mr. Hay created his own company, Bobhay.com Realtors®, where he is the broker and owner. Because of the changing nature of the real estate industry, Mr. Hay saw the desire for home buyers and sellers to obtain real estate information through the Internet, and he created a real estate Web site.

Mr. Hay previously worked at RE/MAX before he decided to develop his own company.

Mr. Hay is also active in his community of Monroe County, Pennsylvania, and I cannot begin to calculate the number of hours that Bob and I have spent together while working on important community projects. In 2006, he served as the chairman of the board of the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce. He continues to work diligently to try to restore the passenger rail service from northeastern Pennsylvania to New York City as the chairman of the Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority.

On a personal note, let me mention how much I have enjoyed getting to know Bob and his wife, Beverly, over the years. They represent the community spirit that makes places like northeastern Pennsylvania great areas to live.

Mr. Hay is a veteran of the Vietnam war. He lives with his wife, Beverly, in Mt. Pocono.